

BEFORE  
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF  
SOUTH CAROLINA  
DOCKET NO. 2006-130-S - ORDER NO. 2006-431  
JULY 25, 2006

IN RE:   Application of United Utility Companies, Inc.    )  
          for Approval of the Transfer of its Sewer        )  
          Utility System and Territory Serving the Gem    )  
          Lakes Subdivision in Aiken County to the        )  
          City of Aiken.                                        )

ORDER APPROVING  
TRANSFER

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) on the request of United Utility Companies, Inc. (United Utility or the Applicant) for approval of the transfer of its sewer utility system and territory serving the Gem Lakes Subdivision in Aiken County to the City of Aiken.

By letter dated May 17, 2006, the Commission's Docketing Department instructed the Applicant to publish, no later than May 25, 2006, a Notice of Filing in a newspaper of general circulation in the area, and further, no later than May 25, 2006, to serve the Notice of Filing upon each customer by U.S. Mail. The Applicant was further instructed to provide proof of timely publication and mailing no later than June 15, 2006. The Applicant timely presented proof that it had complied with these requirements. No Protests or Petitions to Intervene were received. Accordingly, United Utility asks for a waiver of the hearing requirement of S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 103-504. We hereby grant waiver under the present circumstances, since it appears to be in the public interest.

The record shows that on November 28, 2005, the City of Aiken adopted a resolution approving the acquisition of the Applicant's Gem Lakes system. The City conducted a referendum on March 28, 2006, in which the question of the City's acquisition of the Applicant's Gem Lakes system was put to a vote. The question passed by a vote total of 460 in favor to 29 opposed.

The proposed transfer of the system to the City will result in a decrease in monthly sewer charges. Customers annexed into the City of Aiken will realize an average monthly savings of \$27.96. Users remaining outside the city limits will save an average of \$7.29 per month.

Based upon the foregoing, the Commission concludes that it is in the public interest to approve the proposed transfer of the Gem Lakes system to the City of Aiken. This Order shall constitute the Commission's certificate that the transfer of the Gem Lakes system is in the public interest, pursuant to the requirements set out in S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 103-504. Accordingly, we approve the transfer as filed, including the transfer of the wastewater facilities and the service territory, as well.

This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

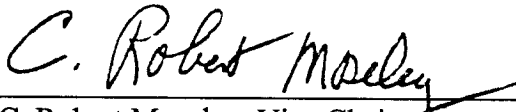
BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:



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G. O'Neal Hamilton, Chairman

ATTEST:



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C. Robert Moseley, Vice Chairman

(SEAL)